



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2006**

**Grade 6
Reading**

Reading

❶ A synonym for the word flag is

- A. save.
- B. signal.
- C. name.
- D. tear.

❷ In the words disagree and disbelieve, the prefix *dis* means

- A. opposite of.
- B. instead of.
- C. above.
- D. beyond.

Read this poem about a kayaker. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Kayak

Over the briny wave I go,
In spite of the weather, in spite of the snow:
What cares the hardy Eskimo?
In my little skiff, the paddle and lance,
5 I glide where the foaming billows dance.

Round me the sea-birds slip and soar;
Like me, they love the ocean's roar.
Sometimes a floating iceberg gleams
Above me with its melting streams;
10 Sometimes a rushing wave will fall
Down on my skiff and cover it all.

But what care I for a wave's attack?
With my paddle I right my little kayak,
And then its weight I speedily trim,
15 And over the water away I skim.

3 Lines 10 and 11 describe what happens when

- A. the kayak floats safely over the wave.
- B. a large wave sinks the kayak.
- C. the kayak jumps the big wave.
- D. a wave quickly covers the kayak.

4 In line 14, the word trim means to

- A. cut off extra pieces.
- B. decorate or paint.
- C. adjust or balance.
- D. defeat in a game.

5 The speaker in this poem is a person

- A. picking up the kayak.
- B. paddling the kayak.
- C. wishing to go kayaking.
- D. watching the kayaker.

6 The imagery in this poem appeals **most** to the sense of

- A. sight.
- B. taste.
- C. smell.
- D. sound.

7 Using your own words, describe the events in this poem in the order that they happen. Use details from the poem to support your answer.

Read this article about the art of building a ship inside a bottle. Then answer the questions that follow.

Sailing Forever—Inside a Bottle

Pat Brodowski

Look closely . . . this bottle has a sailing ship inside. It's a tiny ship, floating over white-tipped waves. Sails puff from masts held into the wind by ropes of thread. On deck, a tiny sailor navigates.

2

It's a day at sea captured in miniature. But how did it get inside a bottle? It seems like magic, but it's not.



One of the secrets, model-maker William Westervelt will tell you, is that the ship is built first. Then it's launched through the bottleneck to sail upon an ocean of clay.

A sailor probably made the first ship in a bottle. In the 1800s, ocean voyages took months. A sailor had time for carving, knot tying, and model making. His model was secure inside the bottle and could be given as a gift when he returned home.

Making such a model takes many hours. Westervelt often begins by finding a sunken piece of history—a shipwreck. Wood from the wreck becomes his model's hull. He finds pictures of the ship, then collects stories of its life at sea.

After research, the first step is to carve the hull. It can take up only about one-half of the diameter of the bottleneck because masts and sails will take up the other half. Masts are made out of tiny dowels lashed together to imitate those of real ships.

There's a secret to sailing ships into bottles. Each mast is hinged to the ship's deck with tiny wooden pins. The masts and their paper sails fold against the ship's hull like wings on a bird.

How the masts unfold inside the bottle is another secret. On real ships, ropes called rigging attach masts and sails to the deck. On models, the rigging is thread. Long rigging threads are slipped through the hull. These threads extend out of the bottle after the ship is inside.

Once the ship is nestled into its soft clay sea, Westervelt pulls the extended rigging threads, lifting the hinged masts up and setting the sails straight. Later, he trims the extra thread.

Now you know the secret of sailing a ship into a bottle. It's not magic, but it is tricky. Maritime museums often display these models, so the next time you're near the ocean, take a look for these tiny ships, sailing forever—inside a bottle.

8 In paragraph 2, the word miniature means the ship is

- A. painted inside the bottle.
- B. a small-scale copy.
- C. a time capsule.
- D. glued on the side of the bottle.

9 William Westervelt's first step in building a ship in a bottle is

- A. buying a bottle.
- B. finding a shipwreck.
- C. researching the ship.
- D. rigging the mast.

10 Inside the bottle, the "white-tipped waves" are made out of

- A. water.
- B. paper.
- C. clay.
- D. wood.

11 The last step in building a ship in a bottle is

- A. making the sails.
- B. hinging the mast.
- C. trimming the thread.
- D. carving the hull.

12 Describe the process of building a ship in a bottle. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

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Grade 6 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	LI	WV	LA	LA	LI	WV	II	II	II	II
GLE Code	5-3	5-2	5-4	5-3	5-5	5-6	5-4	5-2	5-7	5-7	5-7	5-7
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	3
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	B	A	D	C	B	A		B	B	C	C	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, SA = Short Answer, CR = Constructed Response



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2006**

**Grade 6
Reading**

**NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING**

5.3.1 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by identifying synonyms, antonyms, homonyms/ homophones, or shades of meaning

1 A synonym for the word flag is

- A. save.
- B. signal.
- C. name.
- D. tear.

5.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries; or prior knowledge)

2 In the words disagree and disbelieve, the prefix *dis* means

- A. opposite of.
- B. instead of.
- C. above.
- D. beyond.

The Kayak Literary Text

5.4.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by paraphrasing or summarizing key ideas/plot, with major events sequenced, as appropriate to text

- 3 Lines 10 and 11 describe what happens when
- A. the kayak floats safely over the wave.
 - B. a large wave sinks the kayak.
 - C. the kayak jumps the big wave.
 - D. a wave quickly covers the kayak.

5.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by selecting appropriate words or explaining the use of words in context, including, content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary

- 4 In line 14, the word trim means to
- A. cut off extra pieces.
 - B. decorate or paint.
 - C. adjust or balance.
 - D. defeat in a game.

The Kayak Literary Text

5.5.4 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by identifying the narrator

- 5** The speaker in this poem is a person
- A. picking up the kayak.
 - B. paddling the kayak.
 - C. wishing to go kayaking.
 - D. watching the kayaker.

5.6.1 Analyze and interpret author's craft, citing evidence where appropriate by demonstrating knowledge of use of literary elements and devices (i.e., imagery, exaggeration) to analyze literary works

- 6** The imagery in this poem appeals **most** to the sense of
- A. sight.
 - B. taste.
 - C. smell.
 - D. sound.

The Kayak Literary Text

5.4.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by paraphrasing or summarizing key ideas/plot, with major events sequenced, as appropriate to text

- 7 Using your own words, describe the events in this poem in the order that they happen. Use details from the poem to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough description using the student's own words of the events of this poem in the order that they happen. Response includes relevant details from the poem.
3	Response provides a description using the student's own words of the events of this poem in the order that they happen. Response lacks some relevant details from the poem.
2	Response provides a partial description using the student's own words of the events of this poem in the order that they happen. Response uses limited details from the poem.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

The speaker in the poem:

- paddles over the wave
- glides to the dancing billows
- sees the birds
- paddles past the iceberg that towers above
- gets attacked by a wave
- rights the kayak (turns it right side up)
- skims away

Note: Other answers are possible and should be accepted as long as they are supported by specific, relevant information from the poem.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 4

He goes kayaking no matter what the weather. He paddles, gliding over the water and the foam. He watches the birds soar and he knows that like him they love the roar of the ocean. He also sometimes might pass a gleaming ice burg, is melting making little streams of water. Sometimes a wave will come and cover the kayak with water. But he doesn't care he uses his paddle to right is small kayak. Then he picks up speed trimming the weight of his kayak, he paddles away skimming over the water.

Response provides a thorough description using the student's own words of the events of this poem in the order that they happen and includes relevant details from the poem.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 3

In this poem many things happen. First, the kayaker glides across the waves. Then, seagulls fly around him. Next, he sees a melting iceberg. After that a giant wave covers the kayak but, the Eskimo flips it back over. Finally, he travels speedily back over the water.

Response provides a description using the student's own words of the events of this poem in the order that they happen and includes some details from the poem.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 2

In the poem the kayaker goes over a wave. He does not like the weather. He is drifting over the foam. He love the oceans roar. A ice berg is over him. A wave falls on him, but he dosn't care. Then he goes and goes.

Response provides a partial description of the events of this poem in the order that they happen and uses limited details from the poem.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 1

the kayak was going smoothly then
a Ice Buger came then a Big
wave came and covered the kayak

Response is minimal.

SCORE POINT 0

This poem talk about Snow.
it tells you how much fun you could have
in the snow how cold it is
and how wet it is

Response is irrelevant.

Sailing Forever—Inside a Bottle

Informational Text

5.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries; or prior knowledge)

- 8 In paragraph 2, the word miniature means the ship is
- A. painted inside the bottle.
 - B. a small-scale copy.
 - C. a time capsule.
 - D. glued on the side of the bottle.

5.7.3 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by organizing information to show understanding (e.g., representing main/central ideas or details within text through charting, mapping, paraphrasing, summarizing, or comparing/contrasting)

- 9 William Westervelt's first step in building a ship in a bottle is
- A. buying a bottle.
 - B. finding a shipwreck.
 - C. researching the ship.
 - D. rigging the mast.

Sailing Forever—Inside a Bottle

Informational Text

5.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 10 Inside the bottle, the “white-tipped waves” are made out of
- A. water.
 - B. paper.
 - C. clay.
 - D. wood.

5.7.3 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by organizing information to show understanding (e.g., representing main/central ideas or details within text through charting, mapping, paraphrasing, summarizing, or comparing/contrasting)

- 11 The last step in building a ship in a bottle is
- A. making the sails.
 - B. hinging the mast.
 - C. trimming the thread.
 - D. carving the hull.

Sailing Forever—Inside a Bottle

Informational Text

5.7.3 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by organizing information to show understanding (e.g., representing main/central ideas or details within text through charting, mapping, paraphrasing, summarizing, or comparing/contrasting)

- 12 Describe the process of building a ship in a bottle. Use information from the article to support your answer.

**NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING**

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough description of the process of building a ship in a bottle. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides a description of the process of building a ship in a bottle. Response lacks some relevant information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial description of the process of building a ship in a bottle. Response uses limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Responses must be in the correct order and may be summaries or paraphrases of the passage.

The process of building a ship in a bottle might include these steps:

1. Find a shipwreck from which to obtain wood to make a hull.
2. Research the ship from the shipwreck, getting pictures and stories on which to base the model.
3. Find a suitable bottle.
4. Put clay in the bottle, shaping it like waves.
5. Carve the hull, which can only be one-half the diameter of the bottleneck. Then insert tiny dowels in the hull, making the masts. Hinge the masts to the deck so that they can be raised. Tie rigging, made of thread, to the masts and fold paper sails against the hull. Slip long threads through the hull and extend them outside the bottle after the ship is inserted.
6. After the ship is in place in the bottle on the clay sea, pull the extended threads which raise the mast and sails.
7. Finally, cut the extra threads.

SCORE POINT 4

When you build a ship the first thing you want to do is find a shipwreck. The wood from the old real ship becomes his hull (the bottom of a boat.) He goes to find a picture or pictures of the ship then also gets stories of life on the sea. After all that is done he carves a mini hull out of the wood. He makes his hull so whenever it goes through the neck of the bottle it fits. The mast and sails go on the hull so you have to make sure that fits on the hull. The mast is connected with tiny wooden pins. The mast and sails lay flat onto the hull of the ship. On model ships the rigging is thread and on a real ship it is ropes. The long rigging thread is slipped through the hull and the thread hangs out of the neck of the bottle. Once the ship is secured in the clay he pulls the long threads and the mast goes right up into place. Then he trims the thread.

Response provides a thorough description of the process of building a ship in a bottle and includes relevant information from the article.

SCORE POINT 3

How do you make a ship in a bottle? Easy, you find a sunken piece of history, and you make the wood from the wreck become the hull. Masts are made out of small dowels put together. The mast is hinged to the ship's deck with small wood pins. The long thread you have, you put through hull. You make soft clay under the boat, and cut the extra strings and that's how you make a boat in a bottle.

Response provides a description of the process of building a ship in a bottle and includes some information from the article.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 2

The way you create a ship in a bottle is first you have to carve out the hull. The hull can take up one half of the bottle because the other half is the masts. Masts are made from dowels lashed together. All the masts all hinge on so that they unfold to look like a real ship. Last, the extra string on the boat is trimmed off.

Response provides a partial description of the process of building a ship in a bottle and uses limited information from the article.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 1

Building a ship in a bottle is very hard work. The ship is built first and then they put it in. A lot of these are made of sunken wood. The masts are made out of dowels.

Response is vague.

SCORE POINT 0

The process of building a ship in a bottle is to make them and then put them in water. Then people can see them.

Response is totally incorrect.